



on GUARD

163d RECONNAISSANCE WING (ANG) MARCH ARB. CALIFORNIA

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Commanders Column

Col. Randall Ball

163d Wing Commander

If you have been following the Department of Defense force structure changes and soon to be announced budget cuts you know that the Air National Guard is undergoing significant changes. The C-27 light cargo aircraft and the RC-26 Metro liner are being eliminated and many aircraft platforms are being retired. Dozens of Guard units are undergoing mission changes and 5100 Air Guard personnel are being cut in FY13.

As the DoD re-crafts the Air

Guard they have stated that they remain committed to maintaining and procuring unmanned aircraft to meet the myriad of Air Force missions. Remotely Piloted Aircraft remain at the forefront of Air Force planning as represented in the DoD force structure announcement which included six new ANG RPA units. This direction is certainly encouraging for the 163d RW as we continue to achieve milestones in flying, teaching others to fly, and supporting the Predator.

So, as you watch this period of post-war sustainment drawdown

know that the 163d is in the right place at the right time. Our Federal and State missions are necessary and are in fact, likely to expand. This is great news whether you are in a support role or operations. Continue to do the excellent job that you do and be confident that the Grizzlies perform a critical Air Force mission that will continue to grow and improve over the years.



VETS4WARRRIOS PEER SUPPORT LINE

The Vets4Warriors peer support line, 1-855-838-8255 (1-855-VET-TALK), and website: www.vets4warriors.com provides easy access to supportive, non-attribution conversations with trained veteran peers representing all branches of the military. This team of veteran peers has immediate access to behavioral health clinicians to respond to potentially emergent issues and can offer referrals to local community services, military veteran centers, and military healthcare providers based upon the needs of the service member. A variety of services will be provided to include non-clinical (legal, financial, etc.) and referrals for clinical services (substance abuse, behavioral health, etc.).

163d Hosts Mexican Delegation

Capt. Kel Thede

163d Public Affairs

Since converting to the Predator in 2006, members of the 163d have become accustomed to setting trends in the military. The 163d was the first ANG unit to fly the Predator mission, first to have FTD and FTU schoolhouses, and on February 16 that tradition was continued by hosting a delegation of senior military and civilian leaders from Mexico. Although the 163d has welcomed Mexican officials numerous times in past visits, this delegation was by far the most senior, with representatives from the Mexican Air Force, Navy, and even the Department of Justice. The group's Predator tour was one stop on a round robin that also included the AMOC and 144th Fighter Wing Detachment. The visit was significant for several reasons. First off, it solidified a partnership dating back to 2010 in which AFNORTH began sending Mobile Training Teams (MTT) to Mexico to support their airborne operations. Several of the MTT instructors are Grizzlies, including TSgt Robert Amador whose bilingual abilities in English and Spanish landed him

the role as the primary briefer for the group. During a short interview TSgt Amador explained to me that the Mexican military is very protocol orientated. Despite being recognized as a subject matter expert in his field, none of the students in his classes in Mexico were ever senior ranking. In fact he characterized the Mexican Delegation as groundbreaking. "This visit broke barriers. Unlike our military it is highly unusual for an NCO to brief a group of general officers or senior government officials" he stated. He then continued, "This was my first opportunity to meet with the decision makers from their

government." It's very likely that the exposure offered to the Mexicans will result in increased requests for training as well as elevated interest tapping our wing's expertise to develop their own RPA program. Having performed our current mission for the past six years, it can be easy to forget just how exciting and dynamic the Predator mission is. Seeing the expressions of the Mexicans reminded once again that the 163d is in the right mission at the right time. Undoubtedly, the Mexicans will be back for future visits and the opportunities this relationship fosters are anyone's guess.



Photo by TSgt. Neil Ballecer

MILITARY ONESOURCE FREE TAX FILING SERVICE

April 17th is just around the corner! Let Military OneSource help you complete, save, and file your 2011 federal and up to three state returns online free.

The link below will open up the Military OneSource Special Announcement, "The Military OneSource Free Tax Filing Service Is Here" in your browser. If the link above does not work, please copy and paste the entire link into your browser window.

<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/12038/Newsletters/MHF/265713.html>

Pushing Past The Barriers

Todd Fore, Ph.D.

Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower

An Air Force leader's most important job is to care for and develop Airmen through a combination of education and experience, but every Airman must also actively seek opportunities to learn and grow. This agreement between leaders and leaders-to-be is the foundation of the most powerful air force in the world.

Rapidly changing technologies and increasingly complex global conditions have changed the way we approach national security, and tomorrow's leaders must be technologically proficient, highly educated, strategic thinkers able to smoothly adapt to their changing world. Education is critical to developing that type of leader.

Opportunities abound for all Airmen, from junior enlisted to com-

mand eligible officers, and from student interns to flag officer equivalent civilians. The Air Force is the only service with a fully-accredited, associate degree-granting college -- the Community College of the Air Force. That illustrates how seriously the Air Force takes education and training.

Education is only part of the development continuum.

Increasingly challenging assignments and mission opportunities also help Airmen develop their decision-making and other leadership skills, so we vector civilians, officers and some senior enlisted members toward opportunities that will make them better leaders.

Some opportunities -- like deployment to a combat zone -- may seem unendurably onerous, but they will help you develop greater strategic awareness and leadership ability. Other less hazardous opportuni-

ties -- such as academic or technical training instructor -- are no less critical than combat duties, and the impact you have on Airmen will be evident for generations.

You should not wait to be vectored, though. You should shop for your next growth opportunity to make sure it stretches you and allows you to use your skills and talents in support of our critical missions. If you wait for things to happen to you, you may be waiting a long time.

The sky is NOT the limit for those of you who choose to push past the barriers. But where your career goes is ultimately up to you. I will knock down barriers and point you toward opportunities, but you must do your part. You must passionately pursue education and experiences that will make you the kind of leader our Air Force needs.

GRIZZLY RECOGNIZED IN HOMETOWN



Photo by TSgt. Neil Ballecer

Technical Sergeant Robert Davis was recognized in his hometown of Rialto, Calif. recently in a banner posted on a major thoroughfare in the city. Banners such as this have been placed throughout Rialto and other cities to recognize the outstanding work and sacrifices our military brethren undertake. The 'hero' banners help rally the community around the Air National Guard as well as the other military branches of our great nation.

Chief Induction Ceremony 2012

Master Sgt. Caryn Chipman

163d Public Affairs Office

On January 7th the Chief's Groups from both the 163d and March Field joined forces to sponsor a Chief Master Sergeant Induction Ceremony. Promotion and induction ceremonies have a long history in the military. These events not only provide a mechanism to identify personal achievement, but also public recognition for progression through a military career.

In all, there were sixteen inductees from the 452 AMW and the 163 RW.

The 163d inductees included Chief Master Sergeants: Rene Benitez, Raymond Phillips, Jenni-

fer Crain, and Keith Ericson. The inductees performed a reciting of the Chief's Oath, Chief's Charge, Airmen's Creed, as well as a candle lighting ceremony.

The ceremony was attended by commanders, many current and a few retired Chiefs, First Sergeants, and a number of Senior Master Sergeants from both units. Most importantly, many family members were present to witness the official recognition of the outstanding accomplishments of their respective spouses, parents, and siblings.

Grizzlies were an integral part of this important ceremony. Colonel Kirby Colas represented the 163d on Colonel Ball's behalf. Command Chief Morrow participated in the ceremony; completing the

reading of the candle lighting ceremony, which was a key part of the induction. CMSgt Jeff Myers from the CES was a co-emcee, and CMSgt Dempsey was our wing liaison for coordination with the 452d.

The Induction Ceremony was very moving. There were many Traditional Guardsmen and Reservists involved.

One of my favorite lines was, "In almost every section, you hear the phrase 'Go ask the Chief' ... Now, you are the Chief." It really reminded me of the responsibilities of our top 1%.

NEWLY INDUCTED CHIEFS



Photo submitted by Chief Master Sgt. Deborah McGuane

Security Forces - Ready To Roll

Tech. Sgt. Neil S. Ballecer

163d Public Affairs

0500 Feb 4, 2012. The 163d Security Forces Squadron (SFS) Commander, Lt. Col. Carlos Girard, made contact with Major Jassen Bluto to initiate a state recall deployment exercise to include four wings.

"We want to make sure that the capabilities that we have written into a plan are executed," said Lt. Col. Girard.

With 115 personnel total (26 from each wing and a headquarters element), the 163d SFS took the lead and tested their abilities.

"I remember when the TAG visited the 163d RW and said that he wanted SFS to develop a plan to get

mobilized, deploy within 24 hours, and be able to sustain operations for three days."

From that directive, a plan was devised, vetted, and checklists were made.

Maj. Bluto continued by saying, "This is a self-initiated exercise, so the leadership from all four security force units sat down at the Senior Leadership Conference and accomplished what our leadership requested."

Lt. Col. Girard added, "We only have 12 hours to breach the walls of our base to be able to meet our deadline; 12 hours at home station and 12 hours to get to our location."

One of the major challenges for the 163d SFS is getting through the myriad of checklists; to include

vehicles, medical, qualifications, weapons, equipment, food, and lodging.

"I've learned that I need to be ready because you never know when you will get the call," 163 SFS member-SrA Courtney Rice stated.

SrA Delana Acuna, 163 SFS Scribe, was tasked to record the exercise and realized through the experience that there were more than just checklists to accomplish. "Getting through the exercise helps us know who to contact and helps our airmen to be prepared as well. I have never deployed, so it helps me know what I need."

When we receive a call to deploy, as airmen, could we be out the door in 24 hours? The 163d Security Forces can. They did it in 12.



Photo by TSgt. Neil Ballecer

163d Security Forces Squadron in their full battle rattle in preparation for deployment exercise during the February drill, 2012.

Equal Opportunity Misconceptions - Part 2

Staff Sgt. Jessica Huerta

163d Equal Opportunity

"Those surveys aren't anonymous. You can figure out who said what by looking at the unit, rank, sex, race, and ethnicity."

Response: The Equal Opportunity Office does not see individual surveys. The individual surveys are analyzed by a contractor in Patrick AFB by the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) Research Department. The contractor compiles the surveys in a final report which is sent to the

EO office (even if EO wanted to see the raw data, DEOMI will not allow it). The final report contains averages for the unit seeking the assessment, rank, sex, race, and ethnicity. The averages cannot and will not be used to "triangulate" individual members. For instance, if a particular race, rank, sex, etc contains less than 6 responses then the average is not shown and an asterisk takes its place.

As for the comments boxes in the UCAs, the comments boxes allow for members to enter specific data to clarify an answer or to offer

information that is not asked by the survey. No demographic data (rank, race, sex, etc) is included with the comment. To minimize the ability for commanders to figure out who said what by way of speaking style or vocabulary, the EO office looks for trends in the comments and paraphrases the content before the information is given to a commander.

The next article in the series will explain what the Out and About Assessment is and how it can benefit members in the unit.

GRIZZLY RECOGNIZED AS HONOR GUARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR



Photo by Master Sgt. Stan Thompson

Staff Sgt. Adriana M. Garcia is a Chaplain Assistant assigned to the 163d Reconnaissance Wing. She has also served as a member of the March Air Reserve Base Honor Guard since February 2010. Sgt. Garcia received the 2011 Honor Guard Volunteer of Year Award for organizing 87 and performing at 274 events including funerals, retirements, a PGA tour and the Los Angeles Marathon. Her dedication and experience is vital to the total force Honor Guard partnership, having trained 35 Air Reserve Component Members, and the local Army Reserve Honor Guard team.

Premier Training At Det 26

Master Sgt. Jennifer Oberg

163d MXG

The instructors at Field Training Detachment 26 began their journey at Nellis AFB, NV in 2006, training to be Air Education and Training Command instructors. They were officially named a detachment on 1 January, 2009.

Since that time, DET 26 has established itself as the premier training facility for all MQ-1 Predator courses and was recently named prime detachment for the MQ-1 Ground Control Station (GCS) course by 372 TRS, Sheppard AFB, TX. At present, DET 26 has the most experienced MQ-1 instructors in the Air Force with an amassed total of over

30,000 combined teaching hours as of March 2012. In addition, DET 26 has leaned forward and trained instructors in all MQ-9 courses to meet the continuing demand of the Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) community. Our mission remains to train total force personnel to maintain the RPA systems of today and tomorrow.



Pictured from left to right (top row) Col. Kirby Colas, Master Sgt. Mike Adams, Staff Sgt. Austin Archey, Master Sgt. Chris Brown, Master Sgt. Fred Roberts, Master Sgt. Paul Witt, Master Sgt. Carson Brassfield, Master Sgt. Bryan Miller, (bottom row) Master Sgt. Bryan Miller, Master Sgt. Jennifer Oberg, Senior Master Sgt. Ronnie Egan, Tech. Sgt. Heath Branham

GRIZZLY RECIEVES ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL



Photo by SSgt. Jessica Inigo

Col. William "Rudy" Arruda, Joint Task Force Sierra Commander pins an Army Commendation medal on Senior Airman Giovanni Tello for his work along the Southwest border. The mission ended Feb. 29, when the missions will evolve from boots on the ground to a "boots in the air" mission.

The Best and The Brightest

Excellent work to the following Senior Airmen: Tolisha Alston and Jazmyn Diaz for completing Airman Leadership School.

A tip of the hat goes to Tech. Sgt. Darrick Moitoso for completing NCO Academy.

A job well done to Master Sgt. Richard Troncoso for completing Senior NCO Academy.

Superb job to Capt. Daniel Greer for completing SOS.

Kudos to 2nd Lt. Keith Ericson and Master Sgt. Peter Kelley who recieved the Distinguished Graduate Award, and Airmen 1st Class Ryan Garcia and Michael Muela for achieving a Thunderbolt fitness level at BMT.

Also, congratulations to the following members who received 90 percent or better on their CDC End-of-Course testing: Maj. Michael Gerndt, Tech. Sgt. Anthony Cambonga, Senior Airmen Jazmyn Diaz, Airman 1st Class Aaron Lay, and Airman 1st Class Thomas Hagen. Great job Grizzlies!

Congratulations "Grizzly" Promotions



Parker Howitt

OSS

Eugene Espejo

LRS



Victor Murillo Ramirez

CES

Cory Camp

OSS

Eric Johanson

196 RS

Manuel Holguin

AMXS

Alexandra Livingston

OSS

Jazmyn Diaz

MDG



Anthony Ruiz

MOF

Jason Avera

AMXS

Michael Neil

210 WF



William Canonica

MXG

Rosalee Hartzell

MDG

Vance Jackson

FSS

2012 March ARB Volleyball Season Begins!



163d RW fields two teams this year for the March ARB Volleyball League. Team 163 ANG, consisting of the members in the Mission Support and Maintenance groups, and Team 163 RW, consisting of the members of Operations and Intelligence groups, both played on February 7, 2012 at the base gym to kick off the new season. The Grizzlies will compete against other organizations across the base for the next three months every Tuesday and Thursday starting at 1730, vying for the championship trophy. Come out and support your Grizzlies!

Billeting Hot-line Number!

Members with issues, complaints, or concerns regarding billeting reservations or contracted rooms, or who need to cancel their rooms last-minute can contact the first sergeant's on-call hot line number at (951) 453-7620. The phone line is active beginning Friday afternoon and continuing through the Sunday morning of each drill weekend. To cancel a reservation during the month, please contact your unit lodging POC.

Women's History Month

Women's History Month in the United States grew out of a weeklong celebration of women's contributions to culture, history and society organized by the school district of Sonoma, California, in 1978. Presentations were given at dozens of schools, hundreds of students participated in a "Real Woman" essay contest and a parade was held in downtown Santa Rosa.

A few years later, the idea had caught on within communities, school districts and organizations across the country. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8 as National Women's History Week. The U.S. Congress followed suit the next year, passing a resolution establishing a national celebration. Six years later, the National Women's History Project successfully petitioned Congress to expand the event to the entire month of March.

Upcoming 1st Sgt. Vacancy

We are expecting to announce a 1st SGT opening in a few months. This is an excellent career development opportunity for MSGts and promotable TSgts. First Sergeants are a vital link between the commander, enlisted personnel, and support agencies. They are responsible for the discipline, morale, and welfare of the enlisted forces; serve as the commander's advisor on personnel programs and family needs. It's a challenging, but very rewarding position. The training and experience 1st SGTs receive is extremely valuable for enlisted leaders. The goal is to integrate them back into their units and/or technical fields after serving as a 1st SGT. I highly encourage personnel to consider applying for 1st SGT positions and focus early on meeting the eligibility requirements.

163D Chaplains Corps Presents

Berrybean Social

Take some time off to relax over a Cup o' Joe, Soda, and Snacks



22455 Alessandro
Suite #117
Jack-in-the-Box
Parking Lot

Saturday's after UTA (Beginning March)

1630-1830hrs

(Free drink w/ snacks for a limited time)

163d Chaplain Corps

The Chaplain Corps team is here to help you (any religion) through any challenge, and can be reached at (951) 655-5404, Monday- Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or on the duty cell phone at (951) 236-0496.

Chapel Service Schedule Protestant Service

Sunday UTA, 6:45 a.m.

Catholic Mass

Sunday UTA, 11 - 11:50 a.m. Father McNally in the Base Chapel.

Catholic Reconciliation

Sunday UTA, 12 - 12:30 p.m. following Mass in the Base Chapel.





The **ON GUARD** is proudly published for the members of the 163d Reconnaissance Wing and their families.

Commander

Col. Randall Ball

Public Affairs Office

Lt. Col. Brenda Hendricksen
 Capt. Perry Covington
 Master Sgt. Stanley Thompson
 Master Sgt. Julie Avey
 Master Sgt. Laura Bosco
 Tech. Sgt. Joseph Prouse
 Tech. Sgt. Diane Ducat
 Tech. Sgt. Neil Ballecer

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Commander's Straight talk



The Straight Talk hot line can be reached at (951) 655-4758, or feedback can be emailed to 163rw.pa.straighttalk@ang.af.mil

UPCOMING UNIT TRAINING ASSEMBLIES



Mar	Apr	May	June
3-4	14-15	5-6	2-3



Contact your supervisor if you are unable to attend

